

# The Romulus News

APRIL 4, 1997 – APRIL 17, 1997

"the little paper"

VOLUME 10 NUMBER 18

## Timely Tidbits ...

### Don't Let Construction Be an Obstruction

Just a friendly reminder that, despite ongoing construction work along Goddard, the road *is* open, and so are the businesses located there. We hope that the occasional inconvenience associated with this construction won't deter you from patronizing Goddard's shops, restaurants, and offices. Remember: It's important to support our local economy.

### Students To Perform *The Wiz* at RHS

The Romulus High School (RHS) production of *The Wiz* – featuring a cast of RHS students plus six talented elementary-age youngsters as "the Munchkins" – will be performed in the RHS auditorium (9650 South Wayne Road) at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 18, and Saturday, April 19, as well as at 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 20.

Tickets (\$6 for adults; \$4 for senior citizens/students) may be purchased at the door, or by calling Judith Thompson-Barthwell at 941-2170, ext. 503.

### "Friends" Seek Book Donations for Sale

The Romulus Friends of the Library Club is asking local residents to scan their home libraries for books to donate to its upcoming used-book sale, which will be held at the Library (located at 11121 Wayne Road, next to City Hall) from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Monday, April 21; Tuesday, April 22; Wednesday, April 23; and Thursday, April 24; and again from 12 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 26 ("Bag Day").

Books (either hardback or paperback, in good condition) may be dropped off at the Romulus Public Library during its regular business hours: Monday through Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday, 12 to 5 p.m.

Proceeds from the event will be used to benefit the Romulus Public Library. □

## Gang Activity Is Target of New State Task Force

Earlier this week, in an effort to address the problems associated with gang activity in Michigan, Senate Majority Leader Dick Posthumus (R-Alto) announced the formation of the Youth Gang Violence Task Force. The Task Force will be chaired by Dr. Carl Taylor, professor of Family and Child Ecology at Michigan State University (MSU).

"Gangs are *not* simply an urban or rural problem; they are *not* a black or white problem," Posthumus said. "As the primary sales and distribution network for drugs, they are a *universal* problem and impact nearly our entire state. With Dr. Taylor's leadership and expertise on gang activity, I'm hoping we can create a united effort against gangs Statewide."

A well-known authority on gangs and youth violence, Taylor is director of Community and Youth Development Programs at the Institute for Children, Youth and Families, and advises on various projects concerning youth throughout America.

"The loss of one child's life to violent gang activity is too much," stated Taylor. "When children are involved in these gangs, they are reducing their ability to become solid citizens. They are on a dead-end street. Clearly, our communities need more tools to combat this activity and let violent gangs know they



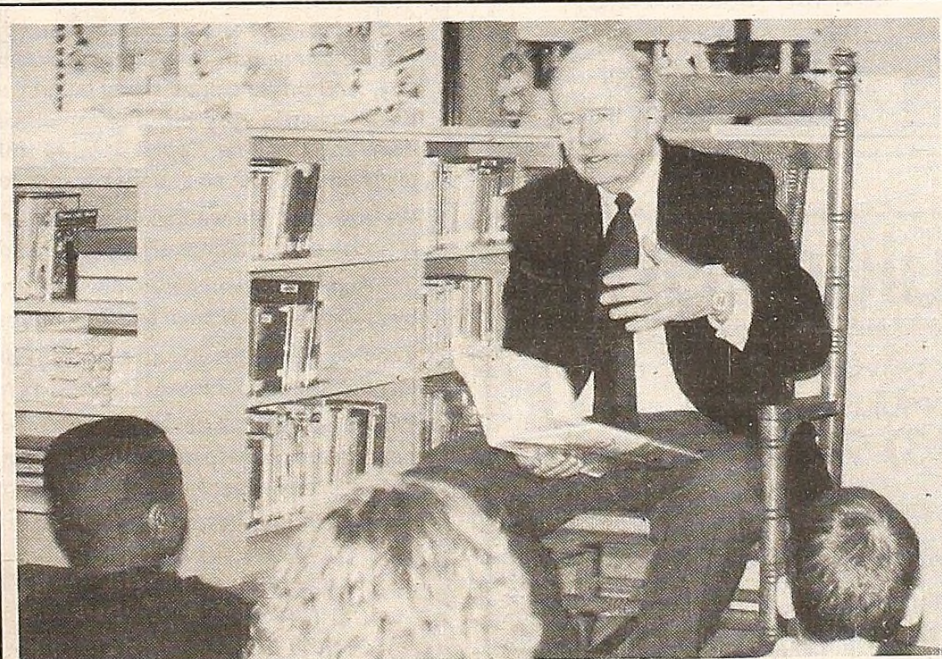
Senate Majority Leader Dick Posthumus (R-Alto) holds a 12-gauge sawed-off shotgun that was taken from a 14-year-old gang member.

are not welcome in Michigan. I applaud Senator Posthumus for not only recognizing the gravity of this problem, but acting decisively to offer solutions."

The Task Force will be made up of community leaders from around the State who have had experience with

*continued on page 10*

## Distinguished Visitors Read to Barth Students



Dr. William Bedell, Superintendent, elaborates on one of the ideas found in the Dr. Seuss book he read to Barth fifth-graders.

In order to encourage students to read and demonstrate the importance of reading, as well as involve community members in our schools, Barth Elementary has just completed its "Read for Enjoyment and Learning" program. Among those who participated by reading aloud to students were Romulus Board of Education trustee Betty Lenossi and Dr. William Bedell, Superintendent of Schools.

Lenossi, who read to kindergartners, chose the seasonally appropriate *Peter Cottontail*. The children enjoyed the story immensely, and were very attentive. When Lenossi asked the students questions about the book, they responded with enthusiasm.

"It was a real pleasure to read to so many thoughtful children," she smiled. "They were absolutely wonderful and so very bright."

*continued on page 10*



## Tough Drunk-driving Laws in Effect as of April 1st

### Auto insurance and drunk driving

- Motorists convicted for drunk driving are penalized 6 points on their driving record.
- The offense is reported to auto insurance companies.
- The offenders are given high risk status.
- After 3 years, the premium penalty is reduced and, after five years, the penalty is eliminated.



For those convicted of driving drunk, full coverage costs rated on a 1995 Chevrolet Corsica are (6-month premium):

• 19-years-old and younger .....	\$3,211
• 20-year-old .....	\$2,897
• 22-year-old .....	\$2,619
• 41-year-old .....	\$1,815
• 62-year-old .....	\$1,854



Source: AAA Michigan

New drunk-driving laws that took effect in Michigan on April Fool's Day are no joke. The four laws – Public Acts 490, 491, 492, and 493 – provide stiffer penalties for minors and first-time violators, and clamp down hard on repeat offenders.

"We applaud State legislators for taking a firm stance against drunk drivers," said Jerry Basch, AAA Michigan Community Safety Services Manager. "Alcohol continues to play a major role in Michigan crashes. In fact, alcohol was a factor in 36.9% of all fatal crashes in this state during 1995 – an increase of 7.8%."

According to Basch, about one-third of those arrested or convicted of drunk driving are repeat offenders. As many as 75% of convicted drunk drivers Nationwide continue to drive with a suspended license. Young drivers are also at risk. One of the most hazardous driving behaviors reported among high-school students is the consumption of alcoholic beverages before driving. Studies suggest that as many as 61% of all dangerous driving events involving high-school seniors also involve alcohol.

Following is a summary of the four new Michigan laws, designed to help reduce the number of alcohol-related injuries and deaths.

- PA 490 – Allows for the warrantless arrest of an intoxicated person found in the driver's seat of a vehicle, if any part of that vehicle intrudes onto the roadway. The warrantless arrest provision also applies to boat operators who have been involved in a crash and are suspected of being drunk.
- PA 491 – Gives judges the power to seize a vehicle for a first-time drunk-driving arrest, a second impaired conviction within seven years, three drunk-driving convictions within 10 years, or an alcohol conviction where a driver caused serious injury or death.
- PA 492 – Penalties pertaining to underage drinking or possession include fines of up to \$100 and/or 90 days in jail; community service; and substance-abuse counseling for first-time offenders. Police can arrest minors based on the results of a preliminary breath test, and a driver's license can be suspended or restricted after just one conviction.
- PA 493 – The owner of a vehicle used by a minor in the transporting of alcohol could have his or her vehicle impounded for 15 to 30 days (if that person had knowledge of or gave consent to the use of the vehicle for transporting alcohol). Police are required to notify a minor's parents or legal guardian following a drunk-driving arrest.

### Drunk Driving in Michigan in 1995

- One person was killed in an alcohol-related crash every 15.5 hours.
- More than 23% of all drivers involved in fatal crashes were under 25. □

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## The Romulus News

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# "Ask Me Where I Got My Great Body, Mind, and Soul"

(From left) Parent assistant Saundra Schwartz with student Jennifer Hoffman and Project SERVE coordinator Kathy Hurst, reviewing the event calendar for the upcoming Health Symposium.

Over 100 Romulus students are busy preparing for the Romulus High School Health Symposium, scheduled for Wednesday, April 23. To promote the event, students and staff are wearing buttons with the question, "Ask me where I got my great body, mind, and soul."

More than 200 high-school students from neighboring schools will attend the activity along with the Romulus High School (RHS) student body.

"This is always an exciting educational event for our school," said RHS Principal Dan Hurst.

The symposium is planned, written, and staged by RHS students who are researching issues that affect a person's body, mind, and soul. They are investigating subjects like stress, character building, and mental health in order to discuss and debate them at the symposium.

This year's event is the fourth such held at RHS under the direction of Kathy Hurst, Project SERVE Coordinator for the Romulus Community Schools.

For more information, contact Hurst at Romulus High School (941-2170, ext. 801). □

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Cory Kids Learn History from Castles



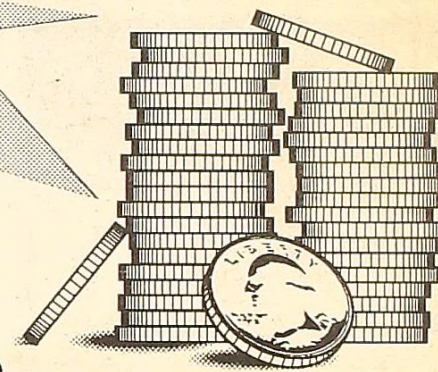
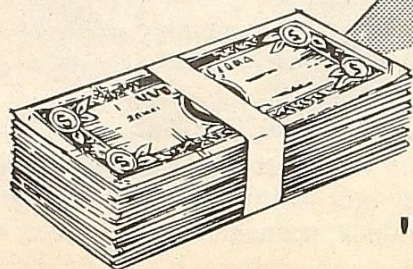
Cassie Wilson (left) and Heather Clark proudly display castles they built as part of a history lesson in Mr. Blackburn's sixth-grade class at Cory Elementary School.



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Adults to Volunteer in Schools



Ryan Tackett (left) puts the emphasis on "volunteer" as Cory parent coordinator, the Reverend Rita Tally, looks on.

Eighth-grader Chris Tally and fifth-grader Ryan Tackett demonstrated their artistic ability by drawing and painting posters to recruit community volunteers for Cory Elementary School. Reverend Rita Tally, parent coordinator for Cory School, has used a number of ideas such as this one to encourage adults to work in public schools.

"One strength of private schools has always been the donation of time by volunteers; public education can be served by volunteer work just as well."

Tally's son Chris used "power" to encourage adults to volunteer.

"My mother inspired me," he explained. "She has such faith in people that I wanted to illustrate the power of volunteering."

"My poster depicts powerful people doing powerful things, just like volunteers in schools," he continued. "Help is needed from parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and guardians."

Ryan Tackett's approach was different, but just as effective. He used cartoon characters to illustrate going to work as a volunteer in a school.

Ryan's mother is an active volunteer at Cory, and he thinks it's "cool" to have Mom around the school.

All Romulus schools are looking for help. If you'd like to get involved, just call the school nearest your home and ask to speak to the parent coordinator.

It's sure to be one of the most fulfilling – and enjoyable – decisions you'll ever make. □



Reverend Rita Tally (right) admires the handiwork of son Chris, who depicted powerful people performing powerful tasks to demonstrate the incredible impact made by volunteers.



## Local Cable Listings

*note: all program schedules are subject to change without notice;  
all local programming takes precedence on public access channel 43*

### Government Channel (Channel 40)

#### Mondays

Regular meetings of the Romulus City Council 7:30 p.m.  
(live – first, second, and fourth Mondays of each month)  
The Mayor's Chair 6:30 p.m.  
(rebroadcast – third Monday of each month)  
Regular meetings of the Romulus Planning Commission 7:30 p.m.  
(live – third Monday of each month)

#### Tuesdays

Regular meetings of the Romulus Cable Commission 7:30 p.m.  
(live – third Tuesday of each month)

#### Wednesdays

The Job Show 6:30 p.m.  
(hosted by Michigan Employment Security Commission)  
People and Policy: A Common Sense Agenda 7:00 p.m.  
(hosted by State Senator Loren Bennett;  
this month's topic – "What's What in Western Wayne")  
Regular meetings of the Romulus Board of Zoning Appeals 7:30 p.m.  
(live – first Wednesday of each month)  
Regular meetings of the Romulus City Council 7:30 p.m.  
(rebroadcast of previous Monday's meeting –  
second and fourth Wednesdays of each month)

#### Thursdays

People and Policy: A Common Sense Agenda 11:30 a.m.  
(hosted by State Senator Loren Bennett;  
this month's topic – "What's What in Western Wayne")  
Regular meetings of the Romulus City Council 12:00 p.m.  
(rebroadcast of previous Monday's meeting –  
first, second, and fourth Thursdays of each month)  
The Mayor's Chair 6:30 p.m.  
(live – second Thursday of each month;  
this month's guests: Brad Raymond, Building Department;  
and Hulen Yates, Ordinance Department)

#### Fridays

The Mayor's Chair 12:00 p.m.  
(rebroadcast – second and third Friday of each month)

### Public Access Channel (Channel 43)

#### Tuesdays

Miscellaneous tapes 11:00 a.m.  
(tapes submitted by local schools and community groups)  
The Jamal Rasheed Show 6:00 p.m.  
4 Pro Forum 7:00 p.m.  
(sports talk program – recorded weekly at Henry Ford  
Community College – with a focus on professional hockey,  
football, basketball, and baseball)

#### Wednesdays

The Christian Hour 6:00 p.m.  
(Church of Christ, New Boston)

#### Thursdays

Miscellaneous tapes 11:00 a.m.  
(tapes submitted by local schools and community groups)  
W. D. Mohammed 6:00 p.m.  
Greater Faith Ministries 7:00 p.m.

#### Fridays

4 Pro Forum 11:30 a.m.  
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# Recreation Programs

Thanks to Debbie Dick, Director, City of Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation, and Keith Brothers, Recreation Coordinator, for supplying information for the "Recreation Programs" column. For more information about these or other offerings, stop in at the Recreation Department Office, 36515 Bibbins, or call 942-6852.

Unless otherwise noted, registration for the following programs should be made at the Romulus Recreation Department during its regular hours (weekdays, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.).

## Egg-ceptional Fun

Approximately 100 youngsters participated in the Romulus Recreation Department's annual Easter Egg Hunt. Special thanks to the volunteers who made the event such a success:

- Tereatha Allen and Jerry Kittle (Recreation Commission members); and
- Jamie Fuison, Jennifer Hoffman, James Monat, Greg Scott, Jannetta Sewell, Melvin Stewart, Letty Taylor, and Heather Wright (students from the Romulus Community Schools' Project SERVE, directed by Kathy Hurst).

## Adult Summer Softball

Although the Romulus Recreation Department plans to accept team registrations for its adult summer softball league as late as Friday, April 18, early sign-up is strongly recommended. (League Classification breakdown: Red = B & C; White = C & D; Blue = D & below.)

### Mon./Wed. Men's White Division

- 8 teams / 21 games / 2 umpires
- times: 6:30, 7:40, 8:50, and 10:00
- cost: \$575

### Mon./Wed. Women's White Division

- 8 teams / 21 games / 1 umpire
- times: 6:30, 7:40, 8:50, and 10:00
- cost: \$450

### Tues. Women's Blue Division

- 8 teams / 14 games / 1 umpire
- times: 6:30, 7:40, 8:50, and 10:00
- cost: \$350

### Thurs. Men's Blue Division

- 8 teams / 14 games / 2 umpires
- times: 6:30, 7:40, 8:50, and 10:00
- cost: \$475

### Fri. Men's Red Division – Field A

- 8 teams / 14 games / 2 umpires
- times: 6:15, 7:30, 8:45, and 10:00
- cost: \$475

### Fri. Men's Blue Division – Field B

- 8 teams / 14 games / 2 umpires
- times: 6:15, 7:25, 8:35, and 9:45
- cost: \$475

## Sun. Men's White Division

- doubleheader format
- 10 teams / 18 games / 2 umpires
- times: 12:00, 1:10, 2:20, 3:30, 4:40, and 5:50
- cost: \$500

## Parent-Child Bowling

The always-popular Parent-Child Bowling event will be held at Romulus Lanes on Saturday, April 19. The \$17-per-couple cost covers two games of bowling, pizza, jackpots, and door prizes. Registration is limited to the first 30 couples, and must be made no later than Thursday, April 17.

## Gymnastics

The spring gymnastics session will be held at Romulus High School beginning April 10, and will continue each Thursday according to the following schedule:

- preschool (6 to 6:45 p.m.);
  - beginners (6:45 to 7:30 p.m.);
  - intermediate (7:30 to 8:15 p.m.).
- Cost is \$35 for residents; \$40 for non-residents.

## Dance

The spring dance program will begin the week of April 14, and continue according to the following schedule:

- preschool (includes a little of both ballet and tap) – Tuesdays from 6 to 7 p.m.;
- ballet (ages six to 10) – Tuesdays from 5 to 6 p.m.;
- ballet (ages 10 to 15) – Mondays from 5 to 6 p.m.;
- jazz (ages 10 to 15) – Mondays from 6 to 7 p.m.;
- adult exercise – Mondays from 7 to 8 p.m.

Cost is \$25 for residents; \$30 for non-residents. Register by Friday, April 11.

## Preschool Movement

Preschoolers (ages two to five) will develop important motor skills in this twice-weekly program, which will be held at Mt. Pleasant School on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:45 to 7:30 p.m. beginning April 8 and continuing for six weeks. Deadline for registration is Friday, April 4.

## Tai Chi

The spring Tai Chi session will be held at the Recreation building beginning April 14, and will continue each Monday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The cost of the 10-week program is \$30; class size will be limited to the first 20 people to register.



Among those who attended the Recreation Department's annual Easter Egg Hunt were members of the Modzynski family: (from left) Jessica, Alex, Robin, and (front) Donald.

## Keyboarding

Spring-season keyboard lessons will be held at the Recreation building beginning April 23, and continue from 6 to 7 p.m. each Wednesday for six weeks.

(Students must provide their own keyboard.) Cost is \$33 for residents; \$36 for nonresidents. Class size is limited to seven students, so early registration is encouraged. □

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Delivery Extra

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## Community Calendar

- **City-wide No-fee Yard Sale** – Last year's "City-wide No-fee Yard Sale" – held during the Memorial Day holiday weekend – was such an enormous success that it's back by popular demand. This year's free permits are good for *four* days: May 29–June 1. In order to give the Recreation Department time to compile a list of sale sites for flyer distribution and submission to local newspapers, permit applications must be filled out at the Recreation building no later than Friday, May 16. For more information, call the Recreation office: 942-6852.
- **The Mayor's Chair** – This month's edition of *The Mayor's Chair* will feature special guests Brad Raymond (City of Romulus Building Department) and Hulen Yates (City of Romulus Ordinance Department). The program will air on Cable Channel 40 at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 10. Anyone wishing to be present in the audience during the taping of the show must be seated in the City Council Chambers no later than 6 p.m.
- **Rummage Sale, Other Events at St. Paul's** – St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church (located at Ellis and Craig streets in New Boston) invites the public to participate in the following events: *Red Cross Blood Drive* (Monday, April 14, from 2 to 8 p.m.; walk-ins welcome); *Rummage Sale* (Friday, April 18, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Saturday, April 19, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.); *All-you-can-eat Fish Dinner* (featuring baked and deep-fried fish, French-fried and scalloped potatoes, cole slaw, roll, macaroni, jello, dessert, and drink; Friday, April 11, from 5 to 7 p.m.; tickets are \$7 for adults/\$4 for children ages five to 11); and a *Banquet/Silent Auction* (Friday, April 25; doors open at 5 p.m./banquet at 7 p.m.). For more information, please call the Church at 753-9048.
- **Free "Mini Health Fair"** – Oakwood Hospital–Annapolis Center will sponsor a free Mini Health Fair on Monday, April 28, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Romulus Senior Center (located at 36515 Bibbins). Adults of any age can participate in this event, which will feature testing for height/weight/body composition; blood pressure, total cholesterol, glucose, pulse oximetry (lung function), hearing, and more. A take-home colorectal screening kit and various types of health-related literature will also be available. For more information, call 942-6852.
- **Crafters/Vendors Wanted** – Volunteers from the Romulus Pumpkin Festival Committee are working hard to create a street festival to be held in the downtown Romulus area this fall, but they need your help! The committee is currently taking applications from crafters, merchandise vendors, and food vendors who would like to participate, as well as entertainers who would like to volunteer to show off their talents. For crafter/vendor information or applications, please call Susan Watts at 941-0476 (before 8 p.m.) or Maria Lambert at 942-7543 (before 6 p.m.). For entertainer information, please call Ellen Bragg at 942-9207 (between 3 and 8 p.m.).
- **Give Your Child a Head Start** – The Romulus Head Start program is currently accepting applications for eligible three- and four-year-old children. This free preschool program, located at Beverly School, serves children from low-income families, foster children, and children with disabilities. For more information, or to apply, please call 728-7815.
- **Registrations Accepted at St. Aloysius School** – St. Aloysius Catholic School is now accepting registrations for the 1997–1998 school year for its all-day, five-day kindergarten program as well as grades one through eight. The school is located near I-275 and I-94 in Romulus. For more information, call 941-3340.

To place information in the Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174-0038; FAX it to us at 941-4874; or call 941-1907 or 941-3113

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## Sassy Seniors

By Mary E. Clark

Special thanks to Audry Moomaw, Manager of the Romulus Tower, and to Linda Norman, Senior Citizens Program Coordinator for the City of Romulus, for contributing information to this issue's "Sassy Seniors" column. (Note: For further information about events at the Senior Center, located at 36515 Bibbins, call 942-6852.)

### Happy Birthday!

Best wishes for a wonderful birthday to those of my Tower neighbors born in the month of April: Pauline Bragenzer, Myra Brower, Mary Casto, Clara Drogos, Dean Dudgeon, Dorothy Gierak, Barbara Gillingham, Jane Kobylski, William Maze, Margaret McIntosh, Sally Mulka, Rosie Robinson, and Phyllis Wade.

Belated birthday wishes to Dorthy Flagg and Lavonia Lambert, who celebrated birthdays in March.

### AARP Income Tax Service

Low- and middle-income senior citizens can receive free tax preparation services at the following sites:

- Friendship Community Center (Sarah Bohmhauer)  
1119 North Newburgh  
(between Ford and Marquette)  
Westland  
313-722-7632
- Maplewood Senior Center (Charles K. Benton)  
31753 Maplewood  
(west of Merriman, north of Ford)  
Garden City  
313-525-8848

Be sure to call ahead for dates and times, as well as a list of materials which must be brought to the appointment.

### Legal Aid

Wayne County residents who are at least 60 years of age can receive free legal assistance in most civil matters at LegalAid clinics to be held on the following dates:

- **Tuesday, April 15**  
Berwyn Senior Center  
26155 Richardson  
Dearborn Heights  
313-277-7054
- **Wednesday, April 23**  
Summit Community Center  
46000 Summit Parkway  
Canton Township  
313-397-5444

No appointment is necessary; seniors are seen on a first-come, first-served basis. Programs begin at 9:30 a.m., and continue until everyone (limit: 25 people) who has signed up by 10:30 a.m. has been seen.

For further information, please call 313-964-5310.

### Ask the Attorney

Local attorney Brian A. Oakley's monthly "Ask the Attorney" program – a free consultation service for senior citizens – has been set for Wednesday, April 23, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Romulus Senior Center. Both walk-ins (36515 Bibbins) and call-ins (942-6852) are welcome.

### Haircuts

Senior citizens can come into the Romulus Senior Center for \$5 haircuts on Monday, April 14, beginning at 1 p.m. Walk-ins are always welcome, but, for your own convenience, the Center recommends calling ahead for an appointment. (Note: Since "shampoo" facilities are not available, seniors must arrive with clean hair.)

### Potluck

The Romulus Senior Center will continue its sampling of foods from different cultures at this month's potluck feast (set for Friday, April 18, at 1 p.m.), which will feature a main dish of Polish sausage and sauerkraut in keeping with a Polish-American theme.

As always, bring a dish and bring a friend.

### Gentlemen Prefer Blondes

This month's \$1 movie at the Senior Center – *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, starring Marilyn Monroe and Jane Russell – will be shown on Friday, April 25, at 1 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

### Shopping Trips

For a transportation cost of \$1.50, Romulus seniors can ride the Center's van to shop at the Taylor Meijer store on Friday, April 25. Space is limited; payment of the transportation fee reserves your seat on a first-come, first-served basis. No refunds will be made unless there is a waiting list. Sign up at the Center.

### Special Trips

Seniors interested in more information about this or other special trips planned by the Romulus Senior Center should call Linda Norman at 942-6852.

- **Bay Mills Resort & Casino** – Those who love to flirt with Lady Luck won't want to miss this overnight excursion to the Bay Mills Resort and Casino in Brimley, Michigan. The \$115 cost of the trip, which departs on July 14, includes round-trip motorcoach transportation, one night's accommodations, one breakfast, one dinner, and \$40 total cash back from casinos in St. Ignace and the Soo. Your final cost is only \$75! □

## Senior Profile: Ruth Carter

By Linda Norman, Senior Citizens Program Coordinator for the City of Romulus

Ruth Carter is an 89-year-old lady who has been struck by lightning, goes camping, and works as hard as a 21-year-old.

Although a resident of Belleville, she has participated in most of our programs at the Romulus Senior Center for at least eight years – and, last year, clocked in more than 300 hours of volunteer service helping us out. The seniors who know her encourage her involvement, so you might say she's an "Honorary Romulus Senior."

Ruth is the last of 10 children, and has helped to raise grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She has been there for nieces, nephews, and the whole family, in good times and hard times, with wisdom and compassion. One family member commented, "If you handed Ruth a glass half-filled with water, and asked her if it was half-full or half-empty, she'd answer, 'Who cares! If you want some water, you have some.'"



Ruth Carter

She never dwells on the negative but always finds the positive.

Cards, good friends, and family are her passion; humor, warmth, and caring are her strengths.

Ruth Carter, we are proud that you call the Romulus Senior Center "home." □

## Senior Profile: Shirley Mills



Shirley Mills

One of six children, Shirley was raised in a single-parent home from the time she was three and a half because her father was killed in the coal mines, leaving her mother to fill both parental roles. As she grew up, Shirley helped her mother in their restaurant in West Virginia.

Shirley is the 61-year-old mother of two daughters, and has four grandchildren and one great-grandchild, with another one on the way. She raised her two daughters by herself, and cared for her mother until her death.

She worked at Ohio University for 11 years and as an office manager for an insurance firm for another 11 years, as well as holding other jobs.

Besides helping people, Shirley enjoys coffee, potato chips, and junk food in general.

Shirley has become very important to the Romulus Senior Center, and has a special place in my heart and life. She has a quiet Southern charm, and I don't think she's ever met a stranger or someone she didn't like.

So, the next time you call or come into our Center, introduce yourself to Shirley. Everyone should have a Shirley Mills in their life, and I'm grateful I've got mine. □

By Linda Norman, Senior Citizens Program Coordinator for the City of Romulus

If you have been into our Center in the last year, you've met a friendly, warm, personable, affectionate, and very efficient Shirley Mills.

Shirley came to us from the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), and we all have grown to love and depend on her. All who have met her have voiced their fear of her leaving the Center. Business people have echoed these fears as well.



## GANG TASK FORCE FORMED

*continued from page 1*

youth issues. The purpose of the task force is to find proactive recommendations for reducing gang activity in local communities. The task force will also make recommendations to State lawmakers on issues that require legislative action. Invitations have already been extended to leaders across the State and the task force membership should be complete in the near future.

Meetings will take place across the State, allowing the task force to take testimony from individuals impacted directly by gangs and to hear from those with possible solutions. Hearing dates and locations will be announced as they are established.

"Children are the primary victims of gang activity, whether through drug dealing, stealing, or killing," Posthumus said. "Police officers have told me that

much of the recruiting for gangs takes place in schools, simply because that's where children are every day. Gangs will recruit and lure even elementary-school children with the promise of 'easy money' or the threat of harm. The sad truth is, most members end up either dead or in prison."

It is estimated that gangs have infiltrated virtually all 83 counties in Michigan and are a growing epidemic. Gangs for girls are gaining in popularity and, often, their initiation rites are equally as rigorous as the ones adopted by boys' gangs.

"Last year," said Posthumus, "State lawmakers toughened juvenile crime laws. The Michigan Youth Gang Violence Task Force will focus on preventive measures and consider further changes in the law that may need to be brought before the Legislature." □

## DIGNITARIES READ TO STUDENTS

*continued from page 1*

Bedell read Dr. Seuss' *The Places You Go* — a book that takes the reader through life, showing how the decisions that a person makes determine the different roads that he/she will travel.

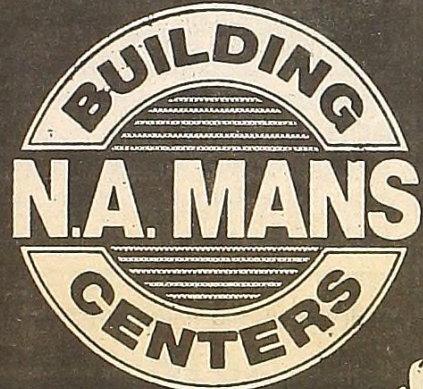
"It's up to you to make the right choices," Bedell told his audience of fifth-graders.

Student Jessica Frost thought it was "neat" that the Superintendent would take time to read to them.

"I really liked the way he explained each part," she said.

In all, more than 25 local dignitaries read to the students during the March reading program. □

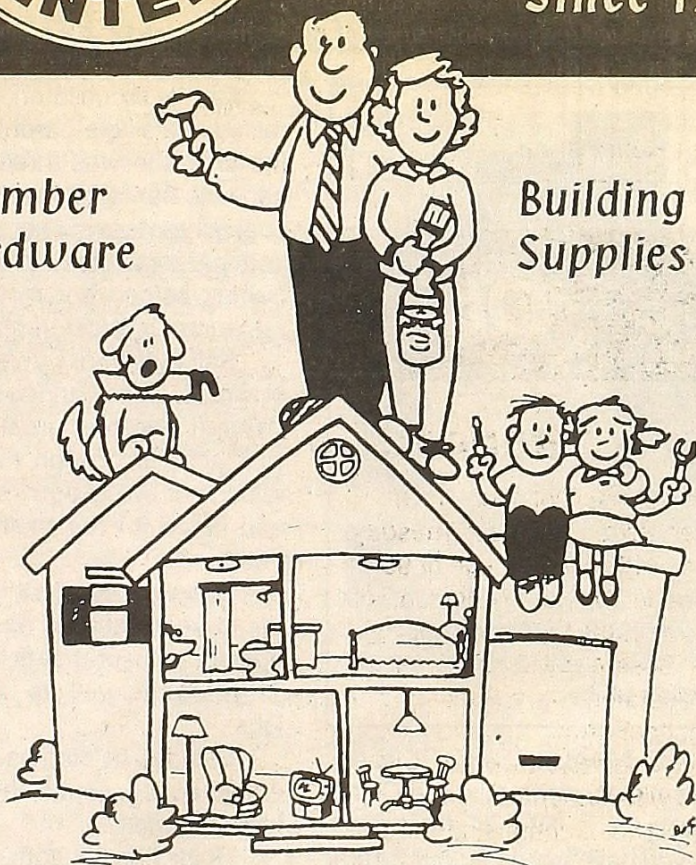
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### REGULAR MEETING, MARCH 10, 1997

The Regular Meeting of the Romulus Board of Education held on Monday, March 10, 1997 was called to order by President Kenneth E. Berlinn at 7:32 P.M.

Roll call showed Members Langley and Woods absent (excused). All Administrators were present.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Berlinn.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Dr. William M. Bedell, Superintendent, requested that the Agenda be amended as follows: Delete "Executive Session" under Report of the Superintendent.

3/97/1 Moved by Oleszkowicz supported by Lenossi that the Board approve the Agenda as amended. Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

3/97/2 Moved by Gondek supported by Lenossi to approve the Minutes of the February 24, 1997 meeting. Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

#### REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

##### Personnel Actions

Dr. Samuel B. La Monica, Director of Human Resources, presented the following personnel item as an Item of Information: Retirement — Rosemary Hering, Secretary, Human Resources, Effective April 1, 1997.

##### Bills for Payment

3/97/3 Moved by Oleszkowicz supported by Lenossi to approve the Bills for Payment as presented by Mr. Joel R. Carr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations. Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

##### Curriculum — Social Studies, Ed Clark, et. al.

Messrs. Clark, Zaher, and Kidwell updated the Board of Education on the Social Studies Curriculum and responded to their questions.

##### Natural Gas Contract

3/97/4 Moved by Oleszkowicz supported by Lenossi to accept the Finance Committee's recommendation to enter a two-year agreement with EMC Gas Transmission Company to supply natural gas for the Romulus Community Schools. Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

##### Purchase of School Buses

3/97/5 Moved by Lenossi supported by Oleszkowicz to accept the Finance Committee's recommendation to purchase five (5) conventional buses from Squires, Inc., if the vehicles meet our specifications.

##### Spring Musical Budget

3/97/6 Moved by Oleszkowicz supported by Lenossi that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the estimated spring musical budget of \$16,250 as per the attached memo. Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

##### Communications and Expressions from the Public

Members of the audience addressed the Board relative to the operation of the School District.

##### Items of Interest from the Superintendent

Dr. William M. Bedell, Superintendent, shared the following Items of Interest with the Board of Education: 1) MASA — Misleading State Info; 2) February Count; 3) Engineering Sound Repair — High School; 4) Finance Committee Minutes; and 5) Dolan Congratulations to Students.

##### Questions and/or Concerns of Board Members

Members of the Board of Education commented on the following: 1) Parent Volunteer Dinner; 2) Student In-service Learning; 3) High School Sound System; 4) Barth Adult Reading Program; and 5) High School Craft Show.

##### Executive Session

The Executive Session was canceled.

##### ADJOURNMENT:

3/97/7 Moved by Oleszkowicz supported by Gondek that the meeting be adjourned. Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:57 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Howard J. Kesner, Secretary  
Romulus Board of Education



## Congratulations

### Ameerah Khalifa

Congratulations to Romulus High School senior Ameerah Khalifa, who was recently awarded an academic scholarship to Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio, where she plans to major in public relations.

Recipients of Xavier's scholastic scholarships must rank in the top 25% of their graduating class, as well as achieve a score of 24 or higher on the American College Test (ACT) or a score of 1100 or higher on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT).

The talented Ameerah has also received a \$1,000 United Negro College Fund scholarship and an additional \$100 cash prize from Continental Cablevision for her first-place essay in a contest organized by the cable company. Ameerah received her "Black History Month Writing Tribute Award" at a special ceremony which was held on Friday, February 28, and also got to read part of her essay in a commercial that Continental aired during February and March on a number of sponsoring stations.



Ameerah Khalifa

Ameerah is the daughter of Hafeeza Khalifa of Romulus. □

## The Stork Arrived

### Alexis Nicole Paige

Proudly announcing the birth of their new daughter, Alexis Nicole Paige, are Patrick and Stacy Paige of Romulus, Michigan.

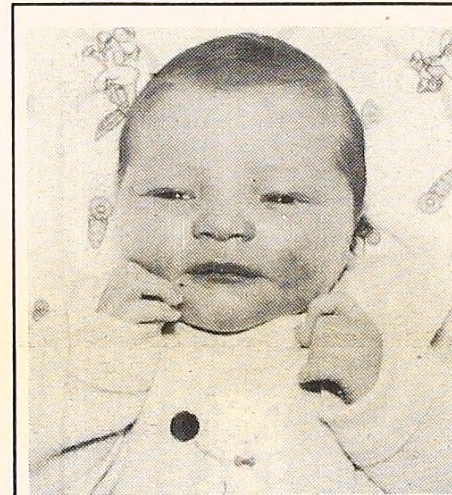
Alexis was born in Oakwood Hospital (Dearborn, MI) at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, January 6, 1997, weighing in at eight pounds even and measuring 21 inches in length.

Also welcoming the newest member of the family were paternal grandparents Patrick and Kay Paige (Romulus, MI) and maternal grandparents Jimmy and Shelly Foust (Romulus, MI).



Alexis Nicole Paige

### Brandon Keith Smith



Brandon Keith Smith

Brian and Vicky Smith of Romulus, Michigan, are proud to announce the birth of their new son, Brandon Keith Smith.

Brandon was born in Wyandotte Hospital (Wyandotte, MI) at 4:09 a.m. on Sunday, February 16, 1997, weighing in at eight pounds even and measuring 20 inches in length.

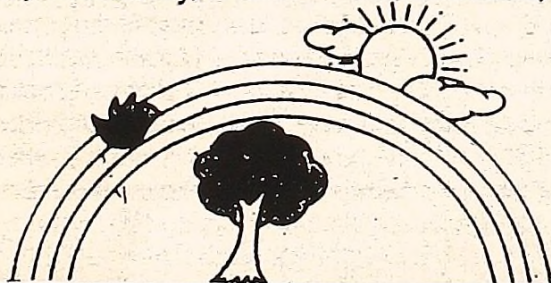
Especially excited about Brandon's arrival was his big sister, Amanda Marie Smith.

Brandon's paternal grandparents are Lila Brady and the late Tim Smith (Pikeville, TN); his maternal grandparents are Dan and Sandy Bussard (Romulus, MI). □

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## Obituaries

### Irene Rose Dollhopf

Irene Rose Dollhopf of Grand Blanc, Michigan, died on Tuesday, March 18, 1997, at the age of 95.

Born in Alpena, Michigan, on January 8, 1902, the former resident of New Boston, Michigan, was the owner/operator of the Sunrise Fruit and Poultry Farm.

Surviving Irene are one son, Carl (and his wife Ruby) Dollhopf (Westland, MI); two daughters, Mrs. Rudy

(Gisela) Morris (Bradenton, FL) and Mrs. Irene Wisniewski (Grand Blanc, MI); 12 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, March 22, at Crane Funeral Home (Romulus, MI), with Father Alexander Wytrwal (St. Stephen's Catholic Church, New Boston, MI) officiating. Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park (Flat Rock).

### Minnie Elizabeth Roberts

Minnie Elizabeth Roberts of Romulus, Michigan, died on Sunday, March 23, 1997. She was 69 years old.

Surviving Minnie are many dear friends: Bill Johnson; Mike, Debbie, Misty, and Ryan Yoh; Sheila, Crystal, and Chelsea Weldon; and Susan Murray (all of Romulus, MI). She was

predeceased by her husband, Chester Roberts (1971), and her brother, Shorty Hill.

Funeral services were held on Friday, March 28, at Pawlus Funeral Home (Belleville, MI). Burial was at Hillside Cemetery (Belleville, MI).

Donations may be made to Bill Johnson. □



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